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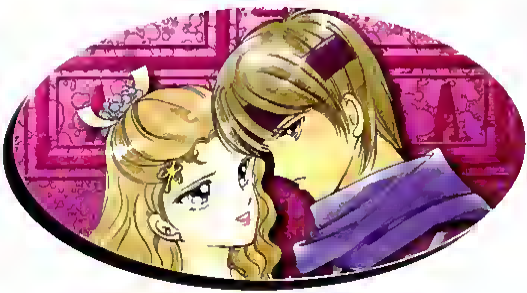

Amakusa Volume 09 Chapter 38

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●引っ越したら…

リスが家の外をぴょんぴょんかけまわってるんですよ。とんびが鳴いてて、毎日毎日、落ち葉掃いてます。いやー、なんかのどかなのはいいんですが、そのわりに落ち着いてガーデニングなんかやってるヒマがありません。ていうか、家の中のダンボールも片付いてないんだけどね。

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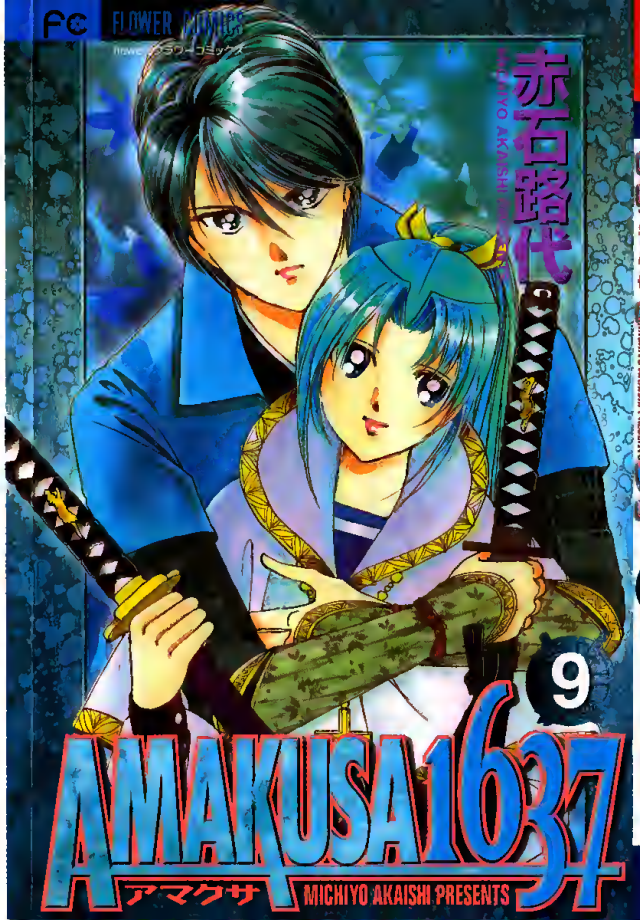

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島原城攻略に
向かう真月たち。
史実では、
落ちなかったはずの
城を落とすことは
できるのか？
歴史への挑戦は
続く……！！

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AMAKUSA 1637⑨

AMAKUSA 1637

アマクサ

MICHIYO AKAISHI PRESENTS

●CONTENTS●

AMAKUSA1637 ㊀ ——— 5
Special appendix at the end of the book ——— 188

AMAKUSA1637人物紹介

㊀ [The outline of the story until the end of volume 8]

●Six high school students from the twentieth century – Natsuki and five of her friends who are also members of the student council – were shipwrecked during their study trip. All of them time-slipped into Edo. Natsuki, who woke up in Amakusa, resembles the deceased "Amakusa Shirou". Thus she lives as 'Shirou' while gaining support from the Christians.

The separated members met again. They stood up to save the insurgents who were supposed to be annihilated in the actual history by making use of modern knowledge and technology.

First, they seized Tomioka Castle which belonged to the Karatsu clan. Then, they began to lodge an attack on the tyrannical castellan of Shimabara Castle while the Shogunate and the surrounding feudal lords were preparing their battle against their insurgency. But at this moment, the time-space between the ancient era and the twentieth century are connected. The phenomenal scarlet sky appeared——!

Hayumi Natsuki

A high school student from the 20th century and the president of the student council in St. Francis Academy. She's a genius swordswoman who is known as 'Shirou', God's messenger from Amakusa.

Kasugano Eri

Natsuki's classmate and the strategist of the rebellion army who adores Natsuki.

Tokugawa Iemitsu

The third generation shogun who persecutes Christians.

Matsukura Katsuie

The head of the Shimabara clan. He's a tyrant oppressing his people.

Miyamoto Masaki

He is Natsuki's lover and is known as Musashi within the Kokura clan. He forsakes his clan and hastens to return to Natsuki's side.

Nabeshima Motoshige

The head of the Ogi clan. He is indebted to Shirou just like the House of Nabeshima under the Saga clan.

Matsudaira Tadanao

The cousin of Iemitsu who is confined in Bungo.

Horie Eiji

Natsuki's friend who is knowledgeable in machinery. He is married to Kicheu, who was previously the favourite concubine of Matsukura, the head of the Shimabara clan.

Akishima Seika

A young girl with heavenly vocals. She is Natsuki's friend and is proficient in foreign language.

Yatsuka Naozumi

Also Natsuki's friend. He's the chamberlain of Tomioka Castle and he is being hunted by the Karatsu clan for killing Terasawa, the head of their clan.

Sugishima Daigo

The chief retainer of the Karatsu clan who is targeting Yatsuka to avenge his dead master.

Hosokawa Mitsutoshi

The eldest son of the Kumamoto clan. He's friends with Shirou.

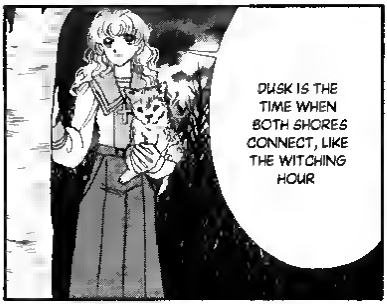
Kuroda Tadayuki

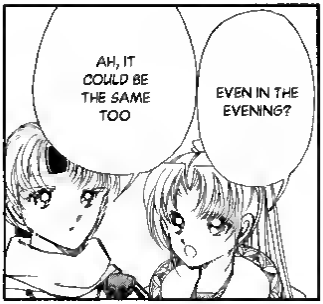
The head of the Fukuoka clan. He thinks that Shirou is interesting and he likes him.

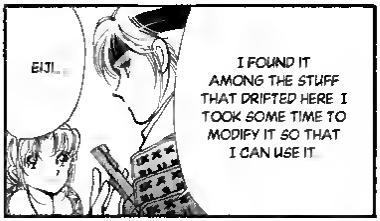
There is a Christian cave chapel in Takeda (Oita Prefecture). It is also the historical residence of a priest but the dwelling is basically underneath a rock.. The place, amidst the bamboo grove, is damp. Although it was used to evangelize the religion, I felt sorry for whoever lived there. According to the records, it appears that the feudal lord governing this area turned a blind eye to the priest who stayed here.

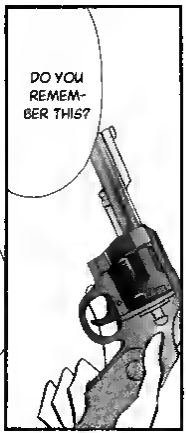
AMAKUSA 1637
アマクサ
MICHIYO AKAMI PRESENTS
(Chapter 38)

ARE YOU SAYING THAT——THERE'S A HOLE IN TIME-SPACE THAT'S SIMILAR TO WHEN WE FIRST CAME, AND THAT MAYBE WE CAN RETURN TO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY?
I'M NOT CERTAIN THAT WE CAN RETURN TO THE EXACT TIME OR PLACE——
BUT I'M SURE THAT THE FLOWERS LAST BLOOMED WHEN NATSUKI ARRIVED
WHEN THE SKY TURNS CRIMSON THE MOBILE PHONES WORK. THAT'S BECAUSE THE ANTENNA FROM THE TWENTIETH CENTURY CAN BE USED
THERE'S DEFINITELY A HOLE IN TIME-SPACE


DUSK IS THE TIME WHEN BOTH SHORES CONNECT, LIKE THE WITCHING HOUR


EVEN IN THE EVENING?
AH, IT COULD BE THE SAME TOO


I FOUND IT AMONG THE STUFF THAT DRIFTED HERE I TOOK SOME TIME TO MODIFY IT SO THAT I CAN USE IT
EIJI...

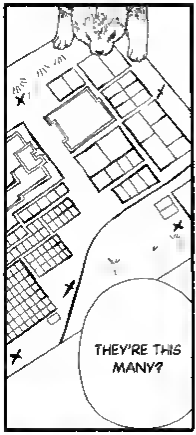

DO YOU REMEMBER THIS?

A GUN MODEL
I WAS DETERMINED TO SURVIVE HERE
YES IT'S A PROP USED BY THE DRAMA CLUB

I WAS THINKING THAT REGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENS, I'D STAY ALIVE AND RETURN TO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.
EIJI
BUT THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW
KIKU-CHAN IS HERE WITH ME
I CAN'T LEAVE HER
HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS ——?
IF THE HOLE IN TIME-SPACE IS OPEN AND YOU COULD RETURN RIGHT NOW——
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

They're blossoming
The door to our home is open
The flowers are blooming.

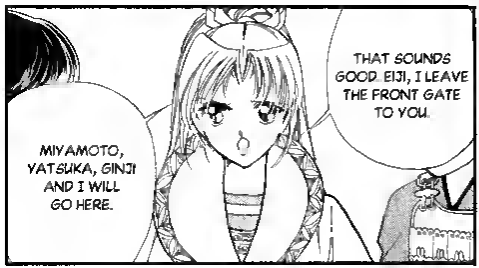
SHIROU! WE FOUND IT! WE FOUND THE ROUTE TO THE CASTLE
THANKS, GINJI!
WE HAVE CONFIRMED IT!
LISTEN UP!
YES, SIR!
WE'LL TALK ABOUT THAT LATER. WE MUST CAPTURE SHIMABARA CASTLE NOW.
OKAY
THAT'S RIGHT
SORRY——I JUST SAID SOMETHING WEIRD
NO WORRIES IT'S NOT AS IF EVERYONE WASN'T THINKING ABOUT IT


THEY'RE THIS MANY?

THE CAMOUFLAGED EXITS ARE MARKED OVER HERE AND THERE
THIS IS A MAP OF THE CASTLE AND ITS SURROUNDINGS
SFX: BAM

LET'S ATTACK FROM THE FRONT AND KEEP THEM OCCUPIED. THEN A FEW OF US WILL GET IN FROM HERE.

YES BUT THE REAL MCCOY IS THIS ONE. IT'S DEFINITELY LINKED TO THE CASTLE.


MIYAMOTO, YATSUKA, GINJI AND I WILL GO HERE.
THAT SOUNDS GOOD, EIJI. I LEAVE THE FRONT GATE TO YOU.

WAIT, NATSUKI, I HAVE AN IDEA
WHAT?
THE KARATSU CLAN WILL COME TO ATTACK US ANYTIME WE SHOULD COME UP WITH A PLAN TO EVADE THEM.
WHAT PLAN DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?
CAN WE DO THAT?!
IT'S ERI'S SUGGESTION. IT'S A TRICKERY THAT WAS USED DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR
HMM.

WE'LL SHOW THEM THE MIRACLE OF GOD'S MESSENGER.
YOU'RE AMAZING, ERI.
PREPARE IT IMMEDIATELY. YATSUKA, PLEASE ASK THE MEN IN THE CASTLE TO HELP.
SURE!
THE WAY HOME, HUH...

SFX. CLANG
CLANG
SFX. CLUNK
SUGISHI-MA-SAMA.
OH, IT'S THE CHIEF RETAINER.
HIZEN, KARATSU CASTLE
LISTEN UP! YATSUKA NAOZUMI, THE CHAMBERLAIN OF TOMIOKA CASTLE IN AMAKUSA HAS BETRAYED US!
YATSUKA MURDERED OUR DONO!
WE MUST AVENGE DONO AND KILL HIS ENEMY!
CHIEF RETAINER OF THE KARATSU CLAN SUGISHIMA DAIGO

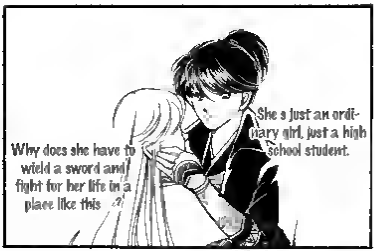
Karatsu
Tomioka
WE'LL SPLIT INTO TWO TROOPS TO REACH AMAKUSA ONE BY SEA AND THE OTHER BY LAND
WE MUST AVENGE DONO.
HIZEN, THE CENTRAL RESIDENCE OF THE OGI CLAN
DONO! A MESSENGER IS HERE
KILL YATSUKA!
WHAT?
THE KARATSU CLAN IS PREPARING TO GO TO WAR?
YEAH!
HEAD OF THE OGI CLAN, NABESHIMA MOTOSHIGE

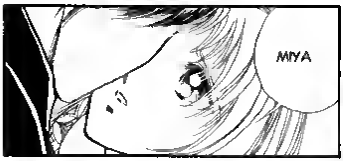
Tomioka Castle was not seized by their chamberlain——It fell into the hands of the insurgent armies.
THEY SAID THAT TOMIOKA CASTLE IN AMAKUSA HAS BEEN SEIZED BY THEIR CHAMBERLAIN AND THEY'RE GOING TO STRIKE AGAINST HIM.
If the Karatsu Clan attacks Amakusa, it'd turn into a war.
The fight has begun.
What should I do?
They'd pass by my clan if they're coming by land from Karatsu to Amakusa

S-SIR..?!
PREPARE LOTS OF WINE!
IT MUST BE 'GOOD WINE'
SFX SLIDES
Shirou of Amakusa how are you now?
The House of Nabejima hasn't forgotten your kindness.

AH
IT HURTS MY HAIR IS TANGLED UP
DON'T MOVE I'LL REMOVE IT FOR YOU
THANKS
MY HAIR IS ALL MESSED UP
HMM? WHAT'S WRONG?

MIYAMO-
TO ?


She's just an ordinary girl, just a high school student.
Why does she have to wield a sword and fight for her life in a place like this ...?


MIYA

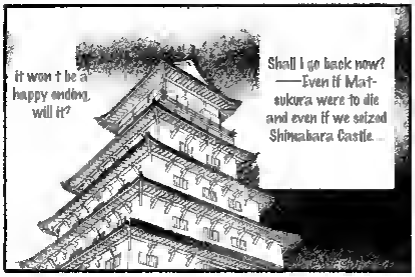
If we can go back,
I'd like us to return to the twentieth century

I'm always scared

I'm always frightened that I'd lose you someday.
MIYAMOTO
IT'S NOTHING. BE ON YOUR GUARD WHEN WE GO THERE.
OF COURSE
I still dream of it from time to time
I am
really sick of this place.

I dreamed that I woke up in the morning in my bed at home
lying on top of my down feather mattress.
Watching the morning news on TV.
Having my bread, coffee, bacon and eggs.
Sitting in the warm bright room,
listening to the canary chirping away
I really want to return to that place.
Shall I go back ?
When this is over..

SFX: KA-BOOM
SHIMABARA CASTLE AT 4:30 AM
SFX: WAAAH!
ATTACK!
YEAH
EIJI HAS STARTED THE BALL ROLLING
NOT ONLY IS THE SKY WEIRD, BUT THE FLOWERS ARE BLOOMING TOO
THE SKY WAS CRIMSON THE ENTIRE NIGHT.
Perhaps I'm not someone who should be here.


Shall I go back now? ——Even if Matsukura were to die and even if we seized Shimabara Castle...
It won't be a happy ending, will it?

The flowers are blooming.

What happens after all these is the real problem.
If Ienitsu were to know about the situation

we'd have to fight him, the Shogun of Edo.
Despite that

We've to seize this castle—— now.
LET'S GO!
INTRUDERS!!
ENEMY ATTACK!!
SFX. BAM
SFX. SLASH
URGH
NATSUKI, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

No matter what happens,
I must take this path
The stench of blood is all over me——and I can barely breathe.
I...I'M FINE. LET'S GO!
DONO!
THE UNDERGROUND IN THE MAIN KEEP OF SHIMABARA CASTLE
THIS PLACE HAS FALLEN!
THEY CAME FROM THE MAIN KEEP AND ARE CLOSING IN ON US!
HMM...
DONO!

THEY SAID THAT THEY CAN'T MOVE THEIR TROOPS WITHOUT SEEKING PERMISSION FROM EDO
DAMN
WHERE'S HOSOKAWA? THE HOUSE OF NABESHIMA? DIDN'T THEIR REINFORCEMENTS COME?!
HOW MUCH LONGER DO I HAVE TO BE STUCK HERE?
I have a bad feeling about this
STEP

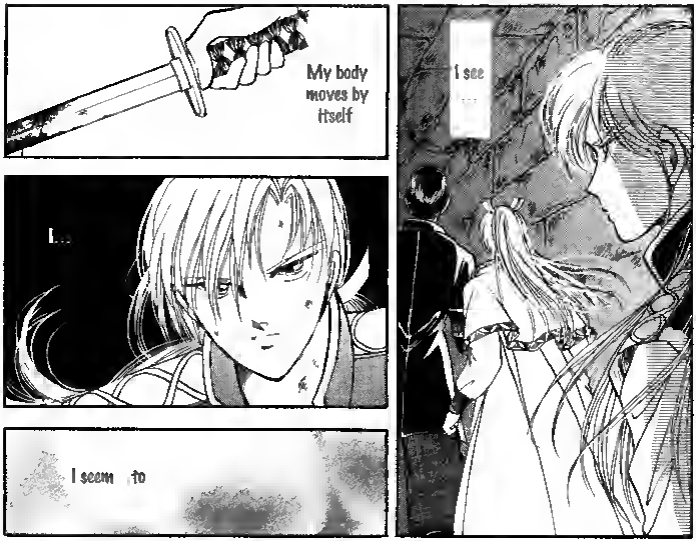
STOP!
I'LL GO FIRST
SFX: GASH

FALLS!
APART!
THAT'S OUR SHIROU-SAMA
HE CAN SENSE DANGER.
THANKS, GUYS.
WAH...
...
THAT WAS CLOSE.

What's
this?
My body
THROBS
on its own
reacts
A faint sound
or a slight movement from the assailants

ENEMIES!
I'm responding to those who hurt Natsuki.

SFX: SPLASHES
Natsuki
SFX: GRABS
LET'S GO!
If you must take this blood stained path,
I'd never let you walk alone.
I shall protect you.


My body moves by itself
I...
I seem to
I see ...

like Natsuki a lot more than I thought.

the only one that I wouldn't want to lose.
that I wouldn't want to hurt.
She's the only one.
I'll protect Natsuki.
I'll protect Natsuki.
SFX: CRASHES
IT'S A DOOR!

SFX: CRASHES
EVERYONE, LIE DOWN.
SFX: THUDS
YOU'RE AMAZING, GINJI YOU DID IT WITH ONE SHOT!
HURRY UP!
THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE INSIDE! I'M MASUDA SHIROU
I'D LIKE YOU TO OPEN THE DOOR
BREAK DOWN THE DOOR!
HOLD ON!
I WANT TO TALK WITH MATSUKURA-DONO
WE'VE AT LEAST 20 PEOPLE HERE

SFX CLENCH X5
20 PEOPLE?
WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING HERE?!
I'M NOT HERE FOR MEANINGLESS BLOODSHED
I'M HERE TO TALK
KILL HIM!
MASUDA SHIROU IS THEIR GENERAL!

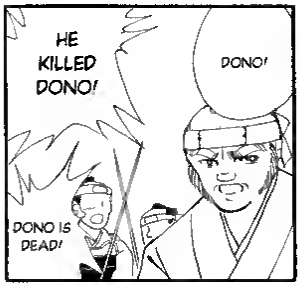
HOLD YOUR FIRE!
NATSUKI!
OKAMO-TO-SAN
CHIEF RETAINER-SAMA
ARE YOU REALLY HERE TO NEGOTIATE WITH OUR DONO?
OF COURSE!
IF HE STOPS OPPRESS-ING THE PEOPLE, IT'D CHANGE EV-ERYTHING

NO, I'LL GO TOO!
SURE, I'LL GO
ARE YOU WILLING TO COME ALONE?
I'D LET ONE OF YOU TO FOLLOW ALONG BUT YOU'VE TO LEAVE YOUR WEAPONS
BE CAREFUL, NATSUKI
W...WHAT?
DONO, MASUDA SHIROU IS HERE.

W...WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
IF IT'S ABOUT MONEY I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU!
THEIR GENERAL HAS EVEN GOTTEN IN HERE
IT'S SCARY!
I'VE A MOUNTAIN OF IT I'D GIVE IT ALL TO YOU! JUST LET ME ESCAPE FROM HERE
YOUR MEN ARE STILL UPSTAIRS, FIGHTING FOR YOU!
MATSUKURA! YOU'RE GOING TO ABANDON YOUR FOLLOWERS AND RUN AWAY?!
Pono...

I_I KNOW
I_I GOT IT
REDUCE THE TAX AND GIVE YOUR PEOPLE MORE FREEDOM EVERYONE IS DYING OF HUNGER RIGHT NOW!
YOU OUGHT TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR MISTAKES INSTEAD OF RUNNING AWAY!
I'VE TONS OF MONEY HERE LET'S GIVE IT TO THE PEOPLE!
PLEASE ACCEPT THESE.
I'VE BEEN REALLY CRUEL

MOVES
GRIPS
DIE!
SFX: STABS


HE KILLED DONO!
DONO!
DONO IS DEAD!

WAAAAH!

NATSUKI, CUT OFF HIS HEAD!
NO.

AND I'M NOT ARMED

I'D NEITHER DECAPITATE HIM NOR HURT HIS DEAD BODY ANY FURTHER
I WON'T FIGHT YOU EITHER

KILL ME IF YOU WANT TO!
BUT I'LL INFORM THOSE OUTSIDE THAT THE BATTLE IS OVER
SO I WANT YOU TO MOVE ASIDE AND LET ME THROUGH
CHIEF RETAINER-SAMA, ARE YOU GOING TO LET HIM ESCAPE RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES?!
THAT MAN IS UNARMED AND THE ONE
THAT CONFRONTED HIM WITH A KNIFE WAS OUR DONO WHO PLANNED TO ABANDON US AND RUN AWAY
I——WON'T PULL MY SWORD AT THAT MAN——

THE CASTELLAN OF SHIMABARA CASTLE, MATSUKURA KATSUIE, IS DEAD!
LISTEN!
CLUNK
THA...THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
IT'S...IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SEIZE OUR CASTLE IN TWO DAYS' TIME!
W...WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S SNOWING...?
YOU'RE RIGHT!
THAT'S MATSUKURA'S DEAD BODY.
SHIROU-SAMA CREATED A MIRACLE!
DONO!

THIS... THIS IS...
EVEN THOUGH IT'S ALREADY WINTER... THIS IS INCREDIBLE...
This is not the work of men from this world.
This is a miracle.
NO, THEY'RE FLOWER PETALS
THEY'RE CHERRY BLOSSOMS!
It's a miracle.
THE WAR HAS ENDED!
DROP YOUR WEAPONS! I AM SHIROU OF AMAKUSA!
A miracle happens right before their eyes